

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2942 without my signature.

Although I support ensuring that hospitals and doctors receive appropriate reimbursement for all workers' compensation services delivered, I cannot support this statutory exemption from the normal workers' compensation fee schedule.

Current law requires the Division of Workers' Compensation to periodically revise the official medical fee schedule. In fact, an extensive revision will commence early next year. Furthermore, specific federal guidelines related to the burn treatment reimbursements impacted by this bill are being developed presently.

I am also concerned with provisions of the bill that require the Division's review of reimbursements be conducted in consultation with one particular independent body. Consultation with a variety of groups is essential to the development of good policy, and one group's opinion should not be given a statutorily mandated preference over any other group.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger